

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (*Currently Amended*) An individual recognizing apparatus comprising:
 - a data acquisition unit configured to acquire a plurality of certifying data from a recognized individual, the plurality of certifying data comprising attribute information associated with the recognized individual that is repeatedly acquired based on changes in the direction of the face of the recognized individual;
 - a detection unit configured to detect feature points from the plurality of certifying data acquired by the data acquisition unit;
 - a change calculation unit configured to calculate the change in positions of like feature points detected from the plurality of certifying data by the detection unit;
 - an aptitude judging unit configured to judge whether the plurality of certifying data acquired by the data acquisition unit are appropriate for the preparation of a certifying dictionary based on the change in the like feature points calculated by the change calculation unit, the plurality of certifying data being judged inappropriate if the change in like feature points is above and/or below at least one threshold value;
 - a dictionary preparing unit configured to prepare a certifying dictionary with one or more certifying data of the plurality of certifying data that are judged to be appropriate by the aptitude judging unit;
 - a dictionary storing unit configured to store the certifying dictionary prepared by the dictionary preparing unit; and
 - a certifying unit configured to certify whether a recognized individual is a proper person using the certifying data acquired by the data acquisition unit and the one or more certifying data in the dictionary stored in the dictionary storing unit.

2. (*Previously Presented*) The individual recognizing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the change calculation unit includes a unit to calculate at least either one of the

up_down and the left_right angle change in the feature points detected from the plurality of certifying data by the detection unit.

3. (*Previously Presented*) The individual recognizing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of certifying data acquired by the data acquisition unit comprise a plurality of face images of the recognized individual.

4. (*Previously Presented*) The individual recognizing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the detection unit uses eyes, brows, nose or lip of the face images as the feature points.

5. (*Previously Presented*) The individual recognizing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the processes are executed again starting from the acquisition of the plurality of certifying data by the data acquisition unit when the plurality of certifying data are judged as inappropriate by the aptitude judging unit.

6. (*Withdrawn*) An individual recognizing apparatus comprising:

- a data acquisition unit to acquire certifying data from a recognized person;
- a dictionary preparing unit to prepare a certifying dictionary by analyzing principal components based on the certifying data acquired by the data acquisition unit;
- a calculation unit to calculate an eigenvalue contribution rate of the dictionary prepared by the dictionary preparing unit;
- an aptitude judging unit to judge whether the dictionary prepared by the dictionary preparing unit is appropriate as a certifying dictionary based on the eigenvalue contribution rate calculated by the change calculation unit;
- a dictionary storing unit to store the dictionary prepared by the dictionary preparing unit when the dictionary is judged appropriate by the aptitude judging unit; and
- a certifying unit to certify whether a recognized person is a proper person using the certifying data acquired by the data acquisition unit and the dictionary stored in the dictionary storing unit.

7. (*Withdrawn*) The individual recognizing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the certifying data acquired by the data acquisition unit is a face image of the recognized person.

8. (*Withdrawn*) The individual recognizing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the detection unit uses such facial regions as eyes, brows, nose or lip of the face image as the feature points.

9. (*Withdrawn*) The individual recognizing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the processes are executed again starting from the acquisition of certifying data by the data acquisition unit when the certifying data is judged as inappropriate by the aptitude judging unit.

10. (*Currently Amended*) An individual recognizing method comprising:
acquiring a plurality of certifying data from a recognized individual, the plurality of certifying data comprising attribute information associated with the recognized individual that is repeatedly acquired based on changes in the direction of the face of the recognized individual;
detecting feature points from the acquired plurality of certifying data;
calculating the change in positions of detected like feature points;
judging whether the acquired plurality of certifying data are appropriate for the preparation of a certifying dictionary based on the change in the calculated like feature points, the plurality of certifying data being inappropriate if the change in like feature points is above and/or below at least one threshold value;
preparing a certifying dictionary with one or more certifying data of the plurality of certifying data that are judged to be appropriate;
storing the prepared certifying dictionary; and
certifying whether a recognized person is a proper person using the acquired certifying data and the one or more certifying data in the stored dictionary.

11. (*Previously Presented*) The individual recognizing method according to claim 10, wherein the calculating of the change includes calculating at least either one of the up_down and the left_right angle changes in the feature points detected from the plurality of certifying data.

12. (*Previously Presented*) The individual recognizing method according to claim 10, wherein the plurality of certifying data acquired comprise a plurality of face images of the recognized individual.

13. (*Previously Presented*) The individual recognizing method according to claim 12, wherein the feature points detected include: eyes, brows, nose or lip of the face images.

14. (*Previously Presented*) The individual recognizing method according to claim 10, wherein the processes are executed again starting from the acquisition of the plurality of certifying data when the acquired plurality of certifying data is judged as inappropriate.

15. (*Withdrawn*) An individual recognizing method comprising:
acquiring certifying data from a recognized person;
preparing a certifying dictionary by analyzing principal components based on the acquired certifying data;
calculating an eigenvalue contribution rate of the prepared dictionary;
judging whether the prepared dictionary is appropriate as a certifying dictionary based on the calculated eigenvalue contribution rate;
storing the prepared dictionary when the prepared dictionary is judged appropriate in the judging step; and
certifying whether a recognized person is a proper person using the acquired certifying data and the stored dictionary.

16. (*Withdrawn*) The individual recognizing method according to claim 15, wherein the acquired certifying data is a facial image of a recognized person.

17. (*Withdrawn*) The individual recognizing method according to claim 16, wherein the detecting step uses such facial regions as eyes, brows, nose or lip of the facial image as feature points.

18. (*Withdrawn*) The individual certifying method according to claim 15, wherein the processes are executed again starting from the acquisition of certifying data by the data acquiring step when the acquired data is judged as inappropriate in the aptitude judging step.